

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration given the application.

In the specification, the Abstract has been amended to comply with the required format for an abstract of the disclosure.

In the amended drawing page, which includes Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, the legend "Prior Art" has been added as requested by the Examiner.

The claims are being amended to more clearly define the present invention.

Claim 1 has been clearly delimited against the prior art known from US 5,363,066 (Chen) by adding features concerning the "current control device (22, 24)" and the "current adjustment device (26, 28)". As to the original disclosure of these clarifying features, reference is made to the specification, page 2, line 9 and 15, and page 3, line 1 (concerning on/off switching of the current control device), and page 2, lines 1 - 2, and page 7, line 25 (concerning current adjusting by the current adjustment device).

It is essential for the invention that the switched current control device (cf. 22, 24 in fig. 3) is arranged at the supply side and that the current adjustment device (cf. 26, 28 in fig. 3) is arranged at the output side. With this arrangement it is possible to "damp" a disturbance caused by the switching before reaching the output terminal (cf. 16 in fig. 3). This damping effect is ensured by the current adjustment device lying between the switching current control device and the output terminal. This contributes to the technical object of the invention, namely to reduce the disturbances in the output current of a current source.

Prior art document US 5,363,066 (Chen) does not show or suggest an arrangement of current control device and a current adjustment device in the way as defined by claim 1. According to the prior art, contrary to the invention, rather the switched current control device is arranged at the output side and the current adjustment device is arranged at the supply side. Therefore, this known circuit arrangement is completely different from the invention.

This can be seen e. g. from fig. 2D of the "Chen" patent. The switching FET 216 is directly connected with the output terminal (leading to a loop filter 17). Therefore switching of FET 216 leads to disturbance of the output potential V_o at this output terminal to a great extend. This disturbance can not be eliminated by the FET 214 at a node between the adjustment FET 208 and the switching FET 216. With other words, the problem arises between the switching

FET 216 and the output terminal and not between the adjustment FET 208 and the switching FET 216.

Besides, the motivation for arranging the FET 214 in this known circuit arrangement is not to "apply a predeterminant adjustment potential". Rather, this FET 214 composes a "current bypass" for the (permanent) flowing current.

Claim 7 has been re-formulated for clarification as requested by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the claims as now presented are in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge the said fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Order No. 33759.

Respectfully submitted,

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